

Message Text

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SUBJ: U.S. AGRICULTURAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT TEAM VISIT
TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA APRIL 29 - MAY 4

1. U.S. AGRICULTURAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT TEAM COMPLETED ITS
VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. VISIT INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH
OFFICIALS FROM THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN TRADE AND FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS (FTOS)

2. HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT WAS A MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER
OF AGRICULTURE MR. KORD, WHO GAVE LENGTHY BRIEFING ABOUT
THE ACHIEVEMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAK AGRICULTURE IN RECENT YEARS.
HE ALSO GAVE A SHORT REVIEW OF PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN
AGRICULTURE FOR THE PERIOD 1975-1990. THESE INCLUDED AN
INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OF 45 PERCENT,
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01138 051101Z

AND INCREASE OF 93 PERCENT IN THE PRODUCTIVITY OF
LABOR, A 60 PERCENT INCREASE IN FOOD INDUSTRY AND
A 51 PERCENT INCREASE IN FOOD SUPPLIES FOR THE
DOMESTIC MARKET.

3. MAJOR OBSERVATIONS OF THE TEAM IS COVERED BELOW
UNDER THE FOLLOWING: (A) DAIRY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM,

(B) CONTINUING NEED FOR SOYBEAN MEAL AND CORN IMPORTS FOR THE GROWING MIXED FEED INDUSTRY, (C) INTEREST IN ORGANIZING LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION SEMINARS AND (D) EXCHANGE OF SCIENTISTS OR STUDENTS BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE UNIVERSITIES OR INSTITUTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. DAIRY PROGRAM: THE TEAM FOUND CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS NOW PLANNING TO MOVE TOWARD SPECIALIZED DAIRY (ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF EXISTING DAIRY HERD) BEEF AND DUAL PURPOSE HERDS AND AWAY FROM CURRENT DUAL PURPOSE ONLY COWS. THIS IS SIGNIFICANT AS IT MEANS CHANGES IN BOTH BREEDING AND NUTRITION PRACTICES. WE SEE IN THIS A POTENTIAL FOR LARGE SCALE SALES OF U.S. BREEDING MATERIAL ONCE USUAL HEALTH PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED. IT COULD ALSO CREATE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR SALES OF ADDITIONAL OIL MEALS AND POSSIBLY FEED GRAINS.

5. SOYBEAN MEAL AND CORN: 500 TO 600 THOUSAND TONS ANNUALLY OF PROTEIN MEAL ARE CURRENTLY IMPORTED, THE VAST MAJORITY OF WHICH IS SOYMEAL. IT IS THE TEAM'S OPINION THAT DESPITE FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESTRAINTS SOYMEAL IMPORTS WILL EXPAND OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THE GENERAL FEED FORMULATIONS SEEN BY THE TEAM INDICATE A DEFICIENCY IN PROTEIN. 300 TO 500 UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PRAGUE 01138 051101Z

THOUSAND TONS OF CORN ARE IMPORTED ANNUALLY. THE CZECHOSLOVAKS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE DEFICIENT AND WILL REMAIN DEFICIENT IN CORN. THE EXPANDING LIVESTOCK WILL MEAN INCREASED FEED REQUIREMENTS. ADDITIONALLY, BECAUSE OF REGIONAL RIGIDITIES IN FEED FORMULATION, SOME FEED WHEAT IS IMPORTED BUT WILL DIMINISH AS PRODUCTION OF HIGHER YIELD - LOWER QUALITY WHEAT VARIETIES ARE EXPANDED. HOWEVER, CORN IMPORTS COULD ALSO REPLACE PART OF WHEAT IMPORTS.

6. LIVESTOCK: THE TEAM PROPOSED THAT A MAJOR SEMINAR BE HELD THIS AUTUMN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS A FIRST STEP TOWARD CLOSER COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELDS OF DAIRY BREEDING, DAIRY FEEDING AND SWINE NUTRITION. THIS PROPOSAL WAS BASED ON THE PERCEIVED CHANGE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY AND GROWING NEED FOR MORE EFFICIENT PORK PRODUCTION. THE IDEA WAS WARMLY ACCEPTED BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. TEAM ANTICIPATES THAT SEVERAL COOPERATIVES INCLUDING THE HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN ASSOCIATION, THE U.S. FEED GRAINS COUNCIL AND THE AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION COULD

JOINTLY SPONSOR AND PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A SEMINAR.

7. STUDENT EXCHANGES: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN FARM STUDENT EXCHANGES
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CZECHOSLOVAK UNIVERSITIES.

8. COMMENT: TEAM WAS CORDIALLY RECEIVED THOUGHOUT.
DISCUSSION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WAS OPEN
WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST EXPRESSEFSON THE CZECHO-
SLOVAK SIDE.
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